

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

EB-03 L-01 PM-03 SAM-01 SCI-02 SP-02 DRC-01 RSC-01

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R 171817Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3296

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, FR

SUBJECT: VIEWS OF FRENCH OFFICIAL ON PARTICIPATION IN

IEP

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH ECON/COM MIN, BERNARD, SECRETARY
GENERAL OF THE INTERMINISTERIAL COMMITTEE FOR EUROPEAN
ECONOMIC COOPERATION QUESTIONS, SAID THAT HIS COMMITTEE,
WHICH IN THE PAST HAD TENDED TO IGNORE OECD MATTERS AND
CONCENTRATE EXCLUSIVELY ON EC MATTERS, WAS NOW TURNING
ITS ATTENTION TO THE COORDINATION OF GOF POLICY TOWARD
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THE OECD BECAUSE OF THE ANTICIPATED OECD ROLE IN THE

INTERNATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM AND THE INCREASING IMPORT-
ANCE OF OECD (AS EVIDENCED BY RENEWED U.S. INTEREST IN
IT).

2. BERNARD CONFIRMED WHAT OTHER GOF OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD
US, NAMELY, THAT GISCARD HAS NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER
FRANCE WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE IEP. HE CLEARLY IMPLIED
THAT, EVEN IF FRANCE DID NOT GO IN, IT WOULD NOT BLOCK
ACTION IN THE OECD COUNCIL TO CREATE THE NEW ENERGY
AGENCY. CONTRARY TO SAUVAGNARGUE'S REMARKS TO THE EC
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS IN LUXEMBOURG (EC BRUSSELS 8049),
HE DID NOT SEEM TO FIND INCOMPATIBILITY BETWEEN IEP AND
EC ENERGY POLICY. HE DID SAY THAT IT WOULD BE VERY
USEFUL IF THE UNITED STATES WERE TO STATE CLEARLY THAT
IT DID NOT OBJECT TO THE EC'S DEVELOPING A EUROPEAN
ENERGY POLICY. HE SAID THAT SUCH A STATEMENT WOULD NOT

NECESSARILY ASSURE THAT THE FRENCH DECISION ON PARTICI-
PATION IN THE IEP WOULD BE FAVORABLE BUT THAT IT WOULD
CERTAINLY MAKE IT EASIER FOR THE GOF TO DECIDE IN FAVOR
OF PARTICIPATION.

3. COMMENT: DURING THE YEARS WHEN WE DEALT WITH
BERNARD AS POMPIDOU'S ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL ADVISER,
WE USUALLY FOUND HIM MODERATE AND CONCILIATORY IN HIS
VIEWS. THE FACT THAT HE IS INVOLVING HIMSELF IN THE
IEP QUESTION (EVEN THOUGH HIS INFLUENCE HAS SHRUNK
CONSIDERABLY SINCE THE DEATH OF POMPIDOU) COULD
CONCEIVABLY HAVE A MODERATING EFFECT ON A GOF ATTITUDE
TOWARD THE IEP WHICH HAS APPEARED TO STIFFEN IN RECENT
WEEKS.

4. AT THIS POINT, WE CAN ONLY SPECULATE ON WHAT LIES
BEHIND THE APPARENT HARDENING OF THE GOF ATTITUDE,
I.E., TO WHAT EXTENT IT IS TACTICAL AND TO WHAT EXTENT
IT REPRESENTS A REAL HARDENING OF OPINION. CAUSED BY
EITHER BY CONTINUING DOUBTS ABOUT THE BENEFIT TO FRANCE

FROM THE IEP AS SUCH, OR POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS
INCLUDING FRENCH DESIRES TO PREVENT CONSUMER-PRODUCER
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CLASH, AND TO RETAIN THE IMAGE OF FRANCE AS DEFENDER
OF THE ARABS. FURTHER EVIDENCE OF HARDENING ATTITUDE
CAN BE SEEN IN THE "PERSONAL" STATEMENT OF THE OFFICIAL
GOF SPOKESMAN OCTOBER 16 WHO SAID THAT GOF WOULD
"PROBABLY NOT PARTICIPATE" IN IEP. THERE ARE GROWING
INDICATIONS THAT PM CHIRAC HAS BEEN AN IMPORTANT FACTOR
IN THIS HARDENING. NONETHELESS, WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE
THAT THIS MATTER WILL BE DECIDED BY GISCARD IN THE

LIGHT OF WHAT HE CONSIDERS TO BE FRANCE'S BEST INTERESTS;
THAT HE HAS NOT YET MADE UP HIS MIND, AND IN THE END
HE WILL DECIDE THAT FRANCE'S INTERESTS ARE BEST SERVED
BY COMING IN, ALTHOUGH NOT NECESSARILY AT THE OUTSET.
GISCARD'S PRESS CONFERENCE OF OCTOBER 24 SHOULD THROW
FURTHER LIGHT ON THIS.
IRWIN

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